NSC BRIEFING

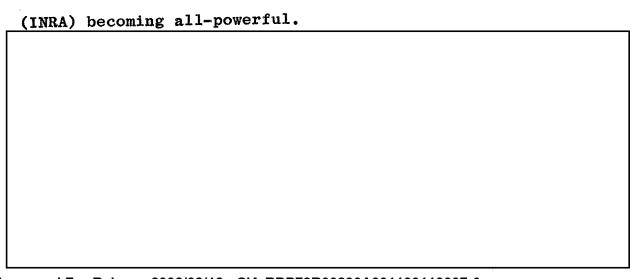
30 November 1959

CUBA

- I. 26 November government shakeup is latest move by regime in its rapid trend to the left.
 - A. Shakeup brings pro-Communist "Che" Guevara, even more to the fore as new head of National Bank.
 - 1. Guevara, 31-year-old Argentine soldier-of-fortune, is now in position to implement his precept that, to become truly independent, Cuba must shift pattern of trade away from dependence on US.
 - 2. Guevara has no economic background and has concept of Cuban revolution as a class struggle that will change economic structure and social system.
 - 3. New minister of public works, Osmani Cienfuegos, is probably a Communist.
 - 4. Officials replaced are relative moderates; others likely soon to be replaced.
 - B. Communist-influenced National Agrarian Reform Institute
 (INRA) becoming all-powerful.

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- 3. INRA expropriations and other activities to date do indeed suggest plans to control production and sale of all agricultural commodities, cattle, minerals, petroleum, and other raw materials.
- 4. Lands taken are organized as state-owned cooperatives, not given to peasants as promised by Castro.
- C. On the surface Castro seems to have received a setback in Cuban Labor Federation elections for executive council last week, but Communists remain strong in labor.
 - 1. David Salvador, who has record of cooperation with Communists, remains Fidel Castro's hand-picked secretary-general of the labor federation.